

# AETC News Clips



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24 Oct 01

## Kerrville mail scare

*KENS 5 Eyewitness News*

Web Posted: 10/23/2001 04:15:43 PM

The Kerrville Post Office was closed Tuesday when several people were exposed to a powdery substance noticed in the air during mail sorting.

Six people were exposed to the substance; after nasal swab tests, three tested positive for bacterial exposure.

The incident happened about 8:30 a.m. at the postal facility located at 244 Cully Drive. Mail operations were suspended.

Four male postal workers and one female postal employee were in the area of the incident and were later joined by a male police officer.

Of the group, three of the male postal workers tested positive for bacterial exposure. No anthrax was found.

A Kerrville police official stressed the tests were preliminary and complete results should be available in 24 hours.

\* The letters in question were sent to Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio for testing.

The postal workers who tested positive are undergoing further tests at Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital in Kerrville.



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## Carriers carry on despite situation

**Macarena Hernandez**

*San Antonio Express-News*

Web Posted: 10/24/2001 12:00:00 AM

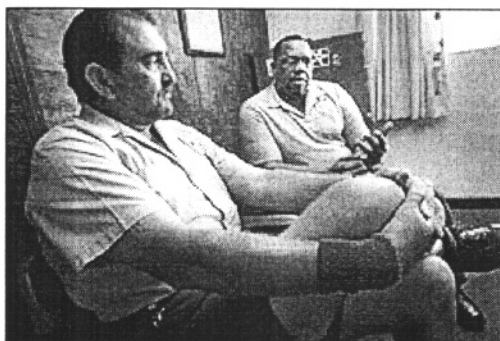
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Even with the deaths of two District of Columbia postal workers weighing on their minds, those delivering the mail in San Antonio said Tuesday that doing their job takes priority over the fear of anthrax.

"You want (people) to feel secure. You want them to know that you are concerned, but you don't want to (cause) a panic," said Albert Thomas, 41, a letter carrier for the Hackberry station.



Postal carriers Gilbert Abundis (left) and Albert Thomas discuss anthrax Tuesday.  
Photo by Bob Owen/Express-News

Little has changed for San Antonio postal workers since post offices on the East Coast began reporting cases of anthrax.

Employees now have the option of wearing protective gloves and masks when handling mail, although carriers such as Thomas prefer not to for fear of alarming residents.

Gilbert Abundis, 44, another letter carrier, said that only in the past few days have local post offices taken steps to ensure safer working conditions and that nationwide, officials "dragged their feet" when it came to educating employees about anthrax and how to handle it.

"Yesterday, the post office wasn't as concerned. Now that two people died, now they are concerned," said Abundis, who works in the Highland Hills station.

**Hearst Newspapers** has assigned a team of reporters and photographers to Asia for special coverage.



**Edward A. Ornelas**, Express-News staff photographer.



**Dudley Althaus**, Houston Chronicle's Mexico City reporter.



**Jim Michaels**, Albany-Times Union assistant managing editor.

On Tuesday, the discovery of envelopes bearing a bluish-white powder led to the precautionary closure of the main post office in Kerrville.

Five postal workers and a police officer were examined at a local hospital after being exposed to the substance, which is being analyzed in San Antonio, Kerrville police Lt. Danny Cortez said.

"They were all put on medication, strictly for precautionary reasons," Cortez said. "Within the next 48 hours, we'll know if it was the anthrax bacteria."

He said the Cully Drive facility would reopen today.

FBI spokesman Mark Rich said agents are monitoring the situation.

Marcia Colliver, a postal inspector in Austin, said postal employees don't have experience with anything like this.

"This is the first time that this has ever happened in the history of the post office," she said. "We have never had a biological substance sent like this, as a weapon, through the post office."

As the union steward for the National Association of Letter Carriers, Thomas took it upon himself to look for information about anthrax online.

"We are cautious," Thomas said. "We still do our jobs, and if it happens, hopefully God will take care of us."

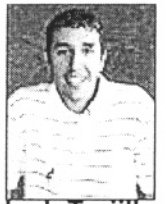
Different stations also are conducting brief safety meetings every day, and encouraging their workers to report anything suspicious.

Still, Douglas Turner, one of the 10 postal inspectors in the city, said identifying suspicious-looking mail isn't easy.

"Could it be in something very small? Yes. Could it be in something very big? Yes." Turner said. "They are not going to know what a suspicious parcel looks like. The postal employees have no idea what you are expecting or who you know."

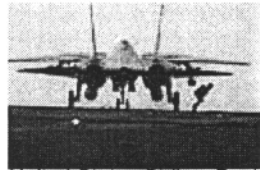
*mrhernandez@express-news.net*

*Staff Writer Zeke MacCormack contributed to this report.*

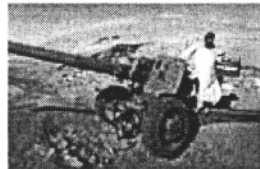


**Josh Trujillo,**  
Seattle Post  
Intelligencer staff  
photographer.

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## 'San Marcos 10' return to SWT

By Roger Croteau

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/24/2001 12:00 AM

SAN MARCOS — In 1969, the 10 young anti-Vietnam War demonstrators were screamed at and ridiculed. Some were assaulted, and finally they were suspended from Southwest Texas State University for a year.

So it seemed strange to the group, known as the "San Marcos 10," that they were invited back to campus Tuesday and treated like celebrities, signing autographs and receiving ringing ovations.

Seven of the 10 suspended students participated in a symposium on free speech issues. They recounted their experiences and talked about how America's new war on terrorism is both similar and different from Vietnam.

Being an anti-war activist at President Lyndon B. Johnson's alma mater was difficult and unpopular, much like the current anti-war activists' situation, one said.

"It is very painful to be outside the opinion of your countrymen, and that may become the case again today," said Sally Ann Satigaj, one of the 10.

Another, David Bayless, warned that Americans need to guard their civil liberties now more than ever.

"If somebody comes up to me and says, 'Give me some of your rights and

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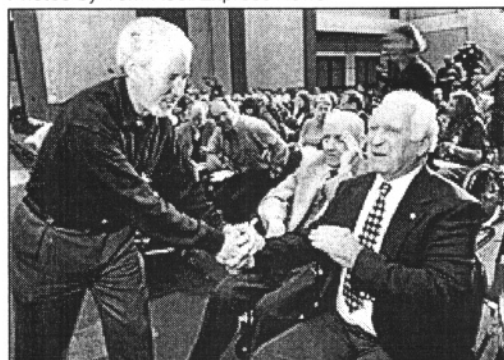
### Comments

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During a forum Tuesday, Sally Ann Satigaj (above) expresses her continued resentment toward Dean Floyd Martine, who was part of the administration that suspended her and other protesting students at Southwest Texas State University in 1969. Michael Holman (below), a member of the 'San Marcos 10,' greets Dean Floyd Martine on Tuesday at Southwest Texas State University.

Photos by Tom Reel/Express-News



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I am going to make you safer,' I'm going to watch out for this guy," he said.

Murray Rosenwasser said the current war on terrorism is not like Vietnam at all, but like World War II, when the United States suffered an unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor.

"I believe in peace as much as anybody, but not peace at any price," he said. "I think our response has been totally appropriate. I look at the people protesting now and think, 'God, what planet are they from?' You can still believe in peace, but at certain times, it is necessary to defend one's country."

The students were suspended after refusing to end an anti-Vietnam War demonstration on campus, which took place at a time of day when the school did not allow demonstrations.

School officials warned the 70 or so protesters to disperse or face suspension and gave them three minutes to leave the Quad. Three minutes later, 10 students remained, defiantly asserting what they believed was their right to assemble.

The students fought for reinstatement all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case.

"It was a precedent-setting case," said Mark Levbarg, the students' attorney from the American Civil Liberties Union. "It still has ramifications. The 11th Circuit just ruled against a student in Florida on July 20, 2000, who brought a Confederate flag to school and was suspended after he refused to take it off the campus. The court cited this case.

"As an attorney, I hate that I lost the case," Levbarg said. "But even more, I hate that it is still being used to restrict political speech."

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10/24/2001

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